

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Too many radio and television stations are in the hands of too few people. We have gone far beyond the point where our airwaves are used to carry programs that are of service to our communities. Sinclair's plan to force partisan programming on all of its affiliates is wrong and sets a dangerous precedent if allowed to proceed unchecked.

Sinclair's shameless partisan use of our airwaves, with no regard for the responsibility they bear to remain impartial, should result in a review of their good standing with the FCC, and possible cancellation of their license. Media conglomerates are bad for democracy, because plurality is the only guarantee against tyranny.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.